



## About the Author

### T. Felder Dorn



T. Felder Dorn graduated from Duke University in 1954 with a BS in chemistry and was awarded a Ph.D. in that discipline in 1958 by the University of Washington. He was a member of the chemistry faculty at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, in 1958–69 and then served four years on the program staff of the College Board in New York. From 1973 to 1991, he held

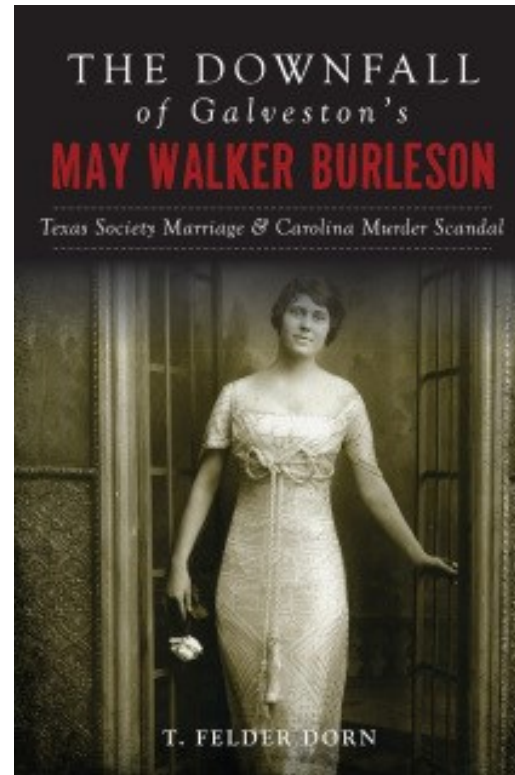
administrative positions at Kean University in Union, New Jersey, serving as associate dean, dean, and vice-president for academic affairs. His last ten years at Kean were spent as a professor of chemistry. He retired in 2001. Felder Dorn and his wife, Sara Ruth, have resided in Millburn, New Jersey, since 1973. They have three children and three grandchildren. Dorn has previously published four books: *Challenges on the Emmaus Road: Episcopal Bishops Confront Slavery, Civil War, and Emancipation* (University of South Carolina Press, 2013); *Death of a Policeman, Birth of a Baby: A Crime and Its Aftermath* (Xlibris, 2012); *The Guns of Meeting Street: A Southern Tragedy* (University of South Carolina Press, 2001); and *The Tompkins School, 1925–1953: A Community Institution* (Attic Press, 1994).

## PROGRAM AGENDA

Summer 2018

Presented by Rosenberg Library

- 12:00 p.m.** Welcome & Introductions  
**12:00-12:15** Historical Presentation  
**12:15-1:00** Book Discussion



Rosenberg Library's Museum Book Club provides a forum for discovery and discussion, linking literary selections with artworks and historical objects from the permanent collection.

1. This true crime account was well researched and went into great detail to lay out the case for readers. Did you appreciate the author's methodology, or would you have preferred a different approach?
2. Were you sympathetic toward one or both of the Burlesons regarding the problems they faced in their marriage? Do you think one of them was more responsible for the decline of the relationship than the other?
3. The author provided little insight into Richard Coke Burleson's feelings about his first marriage or the murder of his second wife. Would knowing more about his motivations and emotions have given you a different perspective on May Walker Burleson?
4. Do you believe that May Walker Burleson was truly insane or do you think she murdered her ex-husband's wife out of jealousy and spite? What do you think would have been a fair sentence for her crime?
5. Despite her involvement in the women's rights movement, May Walker Burleson did not seem interested in leaving an unhappy marriage to pursue her own career or a new relationship. Do you think if she faced the same situation today that her life would have taken the same course?